

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

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Weekly Update

Governor visits Hoosier troops in Iraq

May 20, 2008— Governor Mitch Daniels brought a message of support from Hoosiers to Indiana National Guard members and active duty soldiers during two days of travel in Iraq.

The governor arrived in Iraq on Monday and traveled to several camps in the country visiting hundreds of Guard members and those on active duty to thank them for their service, check in on their well being and to learn about their missions.

"I'm coming back, as I have before, just enormously impressed with the character and sheer competence and professionalism of the entire American military, and of course, I'm especially proud of the members of the Indiana National Guard," Daniels said today during a conference call. "They're really good at what they're doing, they're really proud of what they're doing, and every Hoosier should be, too."

Indiana currently has the largest deployment of National Guard members in the Middle East. There are 4,133 Indiana National Guard members serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Many of those are members of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, which deployed in March.

The governor said the spirits of members of the 76th Brigade are high and that he encountered good humor. "But they're very serious about their business, and the impression you get over and over again is that these are people who have worked very hard, drilled and trained hard and developed skills with complex equipment. They are very glad to have a chance to show what they can do, and glad to put all their training to work," he said.

Daniels departed Washington, D.C., on Sunday. He was greeted in Iraq on Monday by Colonel Corey Carr, of Columbus, commander of the 76th Brigade. The governor described Carr as "every inch the soldier."

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More photos from the governor's trip to Iraq can be found [here](#).

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).



May 20, 2008- Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and National Guard Bureau Chief Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum along with Indiana National Guard Soldiers from Company E, 113th Support Battalion from Ft. Wayne, Ind., display a banner and show their pride for the Indianapolis Colts during a visit to at LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Robert G. Cooper III)



May 20, 2008- Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels speaks with Soldiers of the 1-293rd Infantry Battalion during his visit to LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Les Newport)

Daniels announces \$19 million for new trails investment

May 20, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels last week announced \$19 million in new investment for trails development as a part of his *Hoosiers on the Move* statewide trails plan.

"By making Indiana a 'State of Trails' we not only create new recreational opportunities, but also show the people who can bring businesses here the quality of life that Hoosiers enjoy," said Daniels.

The one-time distribution will be directed to 28 projects throughout the state by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and will result in 104 miles of new trails being built and the acquisition of land for an expected 26 miles of future trail development. Currently the state system includes about 400 miles of multi-use trails.

Projects were chosen based upon geographic diversity, readiness to build, connectivity to the trails system, and local support. These funds are in addition to the \$20 million the state invests annually as part of Daniels' Hoosiers on the Move trails initiative to connect communities throughout the state. The 10-year plan calls for every Hoosier to be within 15 minutes of trail.

"The governor's announcement truly marks an historic day for the future of trails and greenways in Indiana. We could not be more enthused or appreciative of his efforts," said Matthew T. Klein, board president of the Greenways Foundation. "It really shows that Gov. Daniels embraces the many economic and health benefits of linear parks."

DNR will manage both the new funding being allocated to local trails projects and the 150 miles of abandoned railroad corridor the state recently acquired for distribution to government entities and local trail groups for potential trail development. A complete list including brief descriptions and a map of projects that will receive additional funding are available [here](#).

Below: May 25, 2008- Governor Daniels with race fans before the Indianapolis 500.



May 25, 2008- Governor Daniels met KV Racing co-owner Kevin Kalkhoven (left) and Vision Racing owner Tony George (center) on the starting grid at the Indianapolis 500.



May 25, 2008- Governor Daniels met members of the Purdue Marching Band during pre-race activities at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



May 25, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels met Lieutenant General Clyde Vaughn, director of the Army National Guard, at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Did you know...

...new pictures are added to Governor Daniels' photo gallery every week? Click [here](#) for more!

Governor honors Hoosier soldiers at Memorial Service

May 23, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Hoosiers on Monument Circle at the 500 Festival Memorial Service on Friday to honor Indiana men and women who gave their lives in service to the United States.

"No state so honors its veterans as Indiana. We are a state of patriots," said Daniels.

The day before the memorial service, Daniels returned from a visit to Iraq where he met with Indiana soldiers. "It was the most uplifting experience a person could have," he said. "I'm here to report to you that you should be incredibly proud of them, of the job they're doing, and the way in which they are carrying on the tradition of those we honor on Memorial Day," said Daniels.

The full text of Governor Daniels' remarks are available [here](#). Audio can be found [here](#).

Iraq Visit, Continued from page 1...

He also talked to Guard members who knew Army Spec. Joseph A. Ford, of New Albany, who was killed May 10 in Al Asad, Iraq, of injuries suffered in a vehicle accident. Ford was assigned to the 1st Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 76th Brigade Combat Team. A memorial service for Spec. Ford was held today, and Daniels said he decided the best way he could honor the fallen Guardsman was to continue with this trip.

"Folks are very sad about it," the governor said. "It was an accident pure and simple, but it doesn't matter. It is equally sad and tragic." The governor spent time today with soldiers at LSA Anaconda, Balad, Iraq, including visiting with members of the 1-293rd Infantry Battalion and 113th Support Battalion. He also traveled to Camp Victory and Camp Speicher, near Tikrit, during his stay. Daniels departed Iraq after having dinner with Indiana soldiers and is spending the night in Kuwait before heading home. He is scheduled to be back in Indiana on Thursday.

The Department of Defense organized the trip. Daniels and Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons are traveling together and are the first governors to go to the region this year. Daniels also visited Indiana soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan for three days over Easter weekend in 2006.

Daniels said he collected cards and notes from Guard members and will be bringing messages home. "I solicit those. I'm coming back with a bag full of phone numbers of moms, dads, spouses, significant others. I'll be making surprise phone calls to some people," he said.



May 24, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels joined members of the Indiana Patriot Guard Riders during the 51st Annual 500 Festival Parade downtown Indianapolis.



May 24, 2008- Governor Daniels rode his motorcycle in the 500 Festival Parade during Memorial Day weekend. His motorcycle features the state seal embroidered on the seat cushion and a specially painted Indiana gas tank.

What's Happening In My County

visit the [IN.gov](#) map feature >



A Look Ahead...

...This week Governor Daniels will travel to Zionsville, Terre Haute, Covington, Fowler and Elkhart.